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1648

Docket No. CDS-0237

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Jian Zheng

Serial No. : 09/823,077

Art Unit: 1648

Filed : March 30, 2001

Examiner: Laurie A. Scheiner

For : A NOVEL HEPATITIS B VIRUS

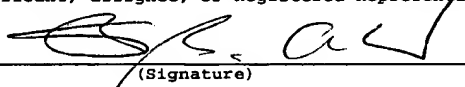
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed
to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

August 2, 2004

(Date)

Stacey B. Antar

Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative


(Signature)

August 2, 2004

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response

Dear Sir:

In response to the revised restriction requirement mailed on
July 7, 2004, please enter the following response.

In a restriction requirement dated July 7, 2004, the
Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the
claims of the following groups:

Group I: claim 1, directed to an isolated hepatitis B
surface antigen variant, Class 530, subclass 350;

Group II: claim 2, directed to an expression vector, class
435, subclass 320.1;

Group III: claim 3, directed to a monoclonal antibody, class 530, subclass 388.3;

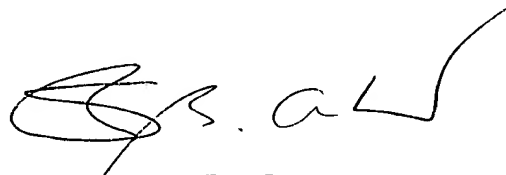
Group IV: claim 4, directed to a hybridoma, class 935, subclass 89; and

Group V: claims 5 and 6, directed to kit and method to determine the presence of the antigen, class 435, subclass 7.1.

Applicants note that the Examiner has reconsidered the prior claim groupings by combining Groups III and IV. Applicants hereby elect to prosecute Groups III and IV.

If any other fees are due in connection with the filing of the subject Amendment, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/CDS-0237/SBA in the name of Johnson & Johnson.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. B. Antar", with a large checkmark-like flourish at the end.

Stacey B. Antar
Reg. No.: 39,595

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August 2, 2004